

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Northern Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksville  
other names/site number Bryant Chapel AME

## 2. Location

street & number 309 Smith Street N/A ☐ not for publication  
city, town Clarksville N/A ☐ vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Pike code 163 zip code 63336

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Clarksville, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G Tracy Mehan, III, Director,  
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date 3/13/91

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> sites
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> structures
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Clarksville, MissouriNumber of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director,Date 3/13/91Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

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- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The former Bryant Chapel is located near the west end of Smith Street in Clarksville. As a property type, the chapel is an example of an institutional building as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of Clarksville, Missouri." It meets the registration requirements established in that document by having a high degree of physical integrity as described below and by being distinguished architecturally, as explained in item 8 of this nomination. Sold by its congregation in 1982, the chapel is in only fair condition, but it is little altered and retains its significant architectural character as an important example of Greek Revival architecture in Clarksville. It stands on the north side of the street, with its gable end to the street. The chapel is a simple rectangular brick structure with a gable roof of moderate slope. The gable end has a small six-pane window and broad two-part frieze, which runs around the building, just above the side windows. The two matching entries have double doors and four-pane transoms under thick white-painted lintels. Side windows have similar lintels. Windows are now closed with unpainted composition board, but the glass is largely intact inside. The building was sold with its furnishings, and the pews, pulpit, altar, and church memorabilia, such as framed photos, are still in place inside the building. Inside walls are plastered but have been partly covered over with modern paneling. The cornerstone makes reference to a remodeling of the building in 1915, but it is difficult to see what changes if any were made at that time other than replacement of the cornerstone itself, which updated the name and denomination. The highlighting of mortar joints with white paint may also have been done at that time. There is a short chimney on the west side. A wooden construction on the roof ridge over the doors seems to have been the base for a belfry. No photos have been located to show the belfry, and it may never have been completed.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1866

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The old Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksville, later Bryant Chapel, is a significant example of Greek Revival architecture in Clarksville, and as such it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The church is significant in the context of architecture as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Clarksville, Missouri."

Although the cornerstone gives the date 1915 for a remodeling of this building, the style and form of the building clearly reflect its origins as the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1866. In that year Benjamin Clifford and William Hough and their wives sold this land "in trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of Divine Worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church." The church survived at this location only a few years before merging with the Methodist Episcopal Church South and moving to that building on Second Street. In 1872 this property was acquired by E. B. Carroll and Daniel Douglas, trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which had been founded in 1868. That congregation built a new church at Third and Main Cross in 1886.

In the same year, the trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church--Lewis Merritt, Jerry Young, and Charles Davis--bought the property. The AME Church was organized in 1880, and services were held in the area prior to the acquisition of the Methodist Episcopal building. In 1915, the church was remodeled under Reverend E. Pittman. The AME Church building was a focus for the black community in Clarksville until 1982, when the building was sold. The church building may also be significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage--Black, but sufficient context has not been developed to make this determination.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. "Clarksville, Surveying the Past -- Phase I." Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1987.
2. Pike County, Missouri: People, Places & Pikers, compiled and edited by Karen Schwadron. Pike Co., Mo.: Pike County Historical Society, 1981.
3. Your Guide to a Walking Tour of Clarksville. Clarksville, Mo.: n.d. [c. 1976].

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 680565 4359440  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lot 220, Clarksville original town plat.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with this property.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Esley Hamilton

organization City of Clarksville date July 1989

street & number c/o 7346 Balson Avenue telephone (314) 727-0428

city or town University City state Missouri zip code 63130

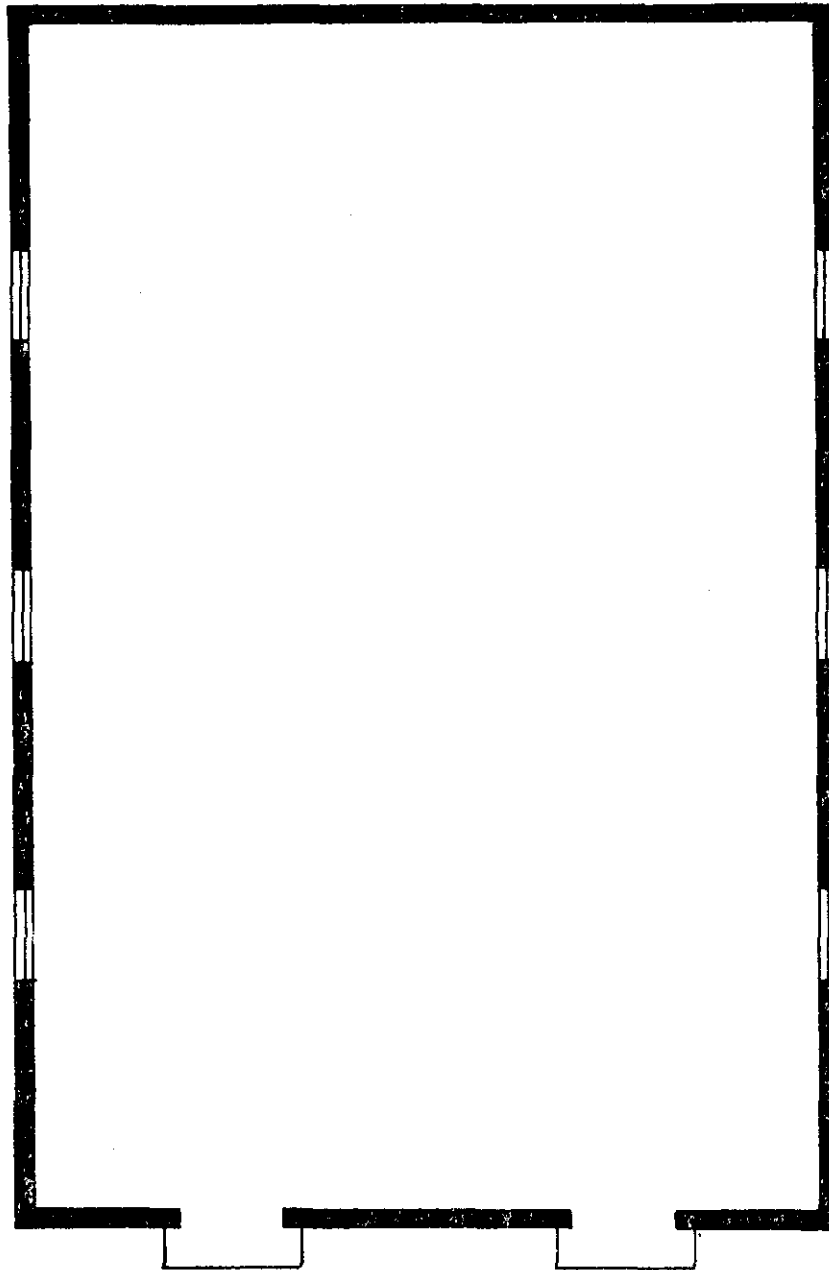
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Northern Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksville

From the late 1830's on, the Greek Revival style, of which this church is an example, reached heights in Missouri rivaling the best work being done anywhere in the country. The county courthouse in St. Louis and the old state capitol in Jefferson City are two examples of buildings of the first rank.<sup>1</sup> More importantly, Greek Revival style and sensibility suffused the vernacular building tradition, giving Missouri architecture of the period a remarkable homogeneity.<sup>2</sup> The Italianate, which began to appear before the war, was so widely accepted in part because it adapted so well to the basic Greek Revival building forms. The Gothic Revival, by contrast, had little impact except in a few churches. The typical vernacular Greek Revival had no portico or even pilasters, but it shared with the higher-style churches designed like Greek temples the basic temple form. Sometimes, as in St. John's Episcopal Church in Eolia, here in Pike County, or in the early Catholic church in Hannibal, farther up river (both listed in the National Register of Historic Places), pointed windows were inserted into the temple form in a concession to the Gothic Revival. The First Methodist Church in Clarksville, built in 1844, was a temple-form church. Like this one, it had two double doors and a front belfry, but it also had a pedimented front gable.<sup>3</sup> It was demolished in 1910, leaving the Northern Methodist building the only example of the style in the city.

Notes

1. Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: Dover, 1964 [Oxford, 1944]), pp. 249-255.
2. Lawrence Lowie, The Architectural Heritage of St. Louis 1803-1891 (St. Louis: Washington University Gallery of Art, 1982), "The Neoclassical City," pp. 47-69.
3. Illustrated in Tales & Talk from Down in Pike (Clarksville, Mo.: GFWC Coterie, 1976), p. 31.

NORTHERN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CLARKSVILLE, MISSOURI



$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 11 Page 1 Northern Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksville

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2. Steven E. Mitchell  
National Register Coordinator  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
DPRHP/Historic Preservation Program  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
Date: March 1, 1991  
Telephone: 314/751-5368  
Editor of Item #8



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**RECEIVED**

JUL 16 1991

HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

**RECEIVED**

JUL 15 1991

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 91000487

Date Listed: 5/9/91

No. Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksville, Pike Co.,  
Property Name County

MO  
State

Clarksville MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Poland  
Signature of the Keeper

7/2/91  
Date of Action

=====

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The level of significance and period of significance were omitted from the nomination form. The level of significance is local. The period significance is the same as the significant date, the construction date of 1866.

This information was verified by Steve Mitchell on the MO SHPO staff.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Northern Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksville  
309 Smith Street  
Historic Resources of Clarksville, Missouri  
Prolog: E. J. Hamilton  
Series: 1989  
Neg. Loc.: Clarksville Public Library  
View from southwest  
1 of 1

